

# COLLEGE RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



## CRA ELECTED OFFICERS 2016

President: Peggy  
Adams King

Vice President:  
Bill Buntin

Treasurer:  
Mary Taylor

Secretary:  
Susan Goehring

Social Chair:  
Jeanette Sanders

Program Chair:  
Virginia Brooks

Communications Coordinator:  
Nancy Buhl

Goodwill Ambassador  
Joal Solaas

Newsletter Editor:  
Marie Reddy

Past President:  
Shelley Hill



## CRA President's Message:

I would like to welcome all new retirees to the College Retirees' Association and welcome back all our returning members. The CRA will begin another academic year with our October meeting on October 7, 2016. Once again board members have planned an entertaining and informative meeting program for your enjoyment featuring Joe Hamilton who will talk to us about stress reduction techniques. I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting. The meetings are a great opportunity to renew old acquaintances, meet new people and share your retirement experiences with others.

In May, we had a very informative meeting in which Mr. Richard Becker and Ms. Ginger Pedersen updated us about new programs and initiatives at the college. I think everyone enjoyed hearing about the new Loxahatchee Groves Campus, security, computer and academic innovations in which the College is involved. We also saw a video presentation by our new President, Ava Parker.

Please feel free to contact me or other board members with suggestions for activities and meeting topics. I would also like to encourage you to share your travel and other experiences with other members through our newsletter. Submissions may be made to Marie Reddy at: [marie-reddy@comcast.net](mailto:marie-reddy@comcast.net).

# Nancy's Notes

Nancy Buhl, Communications Coordinator

Lion Country Safari Appreciation Days are Sept. 9 - Nov. 20, 2016. The special per person price is just \$14.95 and an additional \$7.00 for parking. The regular price is \$33.00 for ages 10-64 and \$29.50 for seniors 65 and older. Appreciation days are for teachers, government/military and hospitality industry personnel. Just Google Lion Country Safari Special Events on your computer for full information. A College ID is required to take advantage of this offer. A College email request form must be completed and processed for a College Retiree ID card. Contact me if you wish to apply for either.

Adaly Maldonado, Professional Development Rep in the Human Resources Department, has been named our College liaison replacing Shannon Whitman who left the College to start her own consulting business. Adaly has been processing our College email requests and her assistance is much appreciated.

If you haven't been there, please visit our CRA webpage at <http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/CRA/default.aspx> I'm sure you will enjoy going through the photo albums as well as the archived newsletters.



# Member News

## Peggy Adams King

This summer Allan and I traveled to Yellowstone and Teton National Parks in June with friends. We enjoyed the cool weather and the beautiful views in the parks. In July we spent ten days in Maine and New Hampshire where we enjoyed the seafood and the cool breezes. Our Rhine River Cruise in August was quite an adventure. We thoroughly enjoyed touring Switzerland, Germany, France and the Netherlands.



## Shelley Hill and Bill Graham

This past July, Bill and I flew to Bangor, rented a car and drove to Bar Harbor, Maine which houses the number one university for sustainability and saving the planet. College of the Atlantic is the country's greenest university. 100% of the school's electricity comes from renewable sources.

During our time in Bar Harbor we hiked one of the many trails in Acadia National Park. The park is so gorgeous and impressive. It seems like another world full of beauty and timelessness. We were sad to leave it and return to heat and humidity and the real world.



### Lori Conti

I enjoyed this newsletter (May edition) very much. I get teary eyed not able to be there to see all my old friends (and new.) I'm still not driving, my car sits in the driveway. My daughter and son-in-law are busy taking me places from Dr's to church etc. My granddaughter just had a new baby - now 2 months old - and between my 5 year old great-granddaughter and him we are busy, busy, busy! Our little girl is another dancer, so we are already running to dance studios. Have seen several shows like Cinderella, Snow White, Sam I Am and ice shows. I live real close to the Players Club and have enjoyed some activity there.

I miss South Florida and all my friends. Free hugs to all, Lori Conti

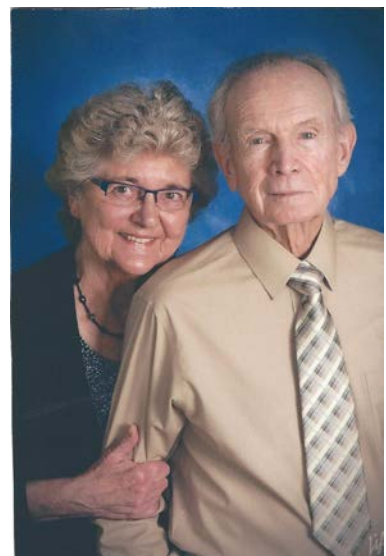
### Joan Young via Nancy Buhl

Joan reports arthritis has crippled her to where she just isn't able to accomplish routine tasks on her own anymore. Even using her computer has limited her correspondence. She recently moved from her independent living apartment on the 13th floor of one building to assisted living on the 3rd floor of the building next to it. Her daughter and daughter-in-law help her out as much as they can when not working. She misses everyone and says she thinks Marie Reddy is doing a great job with the newsletter.

As you all may recall, Joan is a founding member of our original group, the Emeritus Faculty Association and was editor of the EFA and our current CRA news letters as well as secretary for both for many years until she moved to Long Beach, CA near her daughter and west coast family in 2014.

### The Connolly's

After 40 years in Palm Beach County and after my child bride Joanne Connolly also retired from PBCC, we migrated north to Gainesville, following several of her Boca buddies. Last fall we celebrated our 55 years together, remaining healthy and grateful for the state retirement system.





## Betty Dente

I worked at Palm Beach State for 15 years, starting out as a part-time administrative assistant at the Eissey Campus then moving to full-time in the Nursing Department for 4 years and finally settling in at the Lake Worth Campus in Academic Service for my final 10 years. Now, three years later, I am again a full-time employee working as the administrative assistant to the vice president for student services. Although on some days I miss sleeping in, I am enjoying my "second time around" at Palm Beach State.

## George Matsoukas on his trip to Greece (was published in a magazine)



### Sporades Islands Center for Sustainable Life Glossa Skopelos

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions". Joel 2:28

For the past seven years I have been passively involved, mostly listening and offering suggestion, based on my experiences as a development director in educational institutions, to a friend, another academic type, who had a terrific dream for his retirement and relocating back to Greece. Tom Amygdalitsis lived in the USA 45 years. He was born in Glossa, Skopelos. He left Greece with his family when he was 13 years old. The family settled in the USA and Tom attended High School, University, served in the Armed Forces and had a professional career in educational settings dealing with the transformation caused by the computer and its application to learning. He retired from Georgia Perimeter College after 25 years of service in 2013. He was the Supervisor of the Information Technology (IT) department.

His dream was to go back to his island and develop a living, active, learning center for all ages of islanders and to help them appreciate what the island once offered to sustain families. High Tech Tom never forgot the memories of his youth growing up in an idyllic setting in simpler times. He wanted the older people to reintroduce the skills by having a space to talk to younger people. He wanted individuals still working in farming and herding to have a space where they could demonstrate their working skills and transmit their hopes and dreams for the future. He wanted people who knew about fabrics to demonstrate their skills. How do you help people understand the concept of sustainability as a means to revitalize their present social, economic situation?

On his own with his limited resources and with little understanding, by others, of what he wanted to do and accomplish, he set out to make his dream concrete. He rehabbed an old piece of family property sending funds back home, working long distance with workers, untangling permit requirements and bureaucratic obstacles to make the space be what he wanted. This rehab project went on long distance for at least 5 years.

He developed purpose, mission and vision statements, a logo and a web site [www.isporades.org](http://www.isporades.org) which are the essence of the Sporades Islands Center for Sustainable Life. These tell it all.

## Who We Are

*The Sporades Islands Preservation Foundation (SIPF) is a non-profit organization which operates locally and internationally from its base in Glossa Skopelos, Greece. our specialists of trades, crafts and academia are working passionately for the protection of the environment and for sustainable development of local tradition and progressive practices.*

## Mission

*Through education and cooperative learning, the Sporades Center – Sustainable Development Tradition fosters the rediscovery of sustainable practices, traditional and progressive. The Center promotes the vitality of the Sporades islands' fragile environment, agriculture, nautical pursuits, and traditional interdependent occupations and skills.*

## Goals and Vision

*Our vision is to promote and incorporate our rich cultural traditions into present progressive practices the development of which constitute a proposal for a sustainable life. Our proposal has to do with the reconnection of economic activity with nature, protection of the fragile environment, and the rediscovery of traditional occupations which today continue to be evolving and productive. We believe that our proposal can be used to uplift our community's quality of life.*

Tom had a few friends, here in the USA along the way, encouraging him and offering their skill sets when they could. We wanted him to stay focused. When you oversee all these moveable parts it is easy to lose your focus. Finally, three years ago he went back and now is there serving as the full time director. This summer I visited the Sporades Island Center for Sustainable Life and the reality of the building and programs overwhelmed me. I knew the concept of the center as an abstraction, for I have been hearing about it and offering minor input here and there, for seven years. But to see it up and running and photographing the delivery of an enormous old wooden vat, being set up outside the center, where the townsfolk will bring their grapes and participate in a winemaking festival this fall just was unbelievable.

Tom has found some amazing local island visionaries just like himself with big dreams making their dreams a reality. He has partnered with them and has featured them at the Sporades Center. Plum Farmer Thanais Grypiotis is building an amazing complex to manufacture products developed from the three varieties of unique plums that grow on the Island. He has over 2100 plum trees. He will grow, dry, manufacture various products and ship them from the complex he is building in a magical setting overlooking the sea. The complex will also house a hotel for visitors.

Tom was able to network with the Polytechnic Institute of Agriculture in Kalamata and have their faculty study the special nutritional properties of this unique Sporadic Island plum. An analysis has been completed and made public.

Goat Farmer Spyros Gerakis is in full production with a modern goat cheese complex which is home to hundreds of the unique Skopelos goats. His *myzithres*- cheese are shipped all over Greece and beyond. Mr. Gerakis is a delightful, animated and passionate agricultural entrepreneur. He delighted teenage American and local island students with his talk about his work when we attended a workshop at his farm. Mr. Grypiotis vision for his complex also overwhelmed the students who could not imagine him farming and constructing the buildings with stones from his land all at the same time.

John Boudalas is a third generation boat builder. His family has been building ships since the 1870's. Today he uses the blueprints his grandfather and father used to build ships but he builds them as good sized models. Some are for sale and others are not. Former President George H. Bush has one of his model ships. He has displayed them and talked about them at the Sporades Island Center.

James Michener would call all four of these individuals who are working within a CRISIS Situation, an economic meltdown, the Golden Men. They understand the movement going around them. They know from despair hope rises and from defeat victory results. To the 35-45-year-olds who want to leave Greece, look around and create opportunity. You are the hope of the future. Do not rely on the government. Ban together and make a new order. You young men and women need to see a vision. These old men are living a dream and making it happen. Work together to make sustainable change.

### Celeste Beck's Entry to a Jacksonville Quilt Show



This is my quilt I entered in the Jacksonville show. Title: Mr. Tweedle and Bellarouse

Here I thought I would be the only person to make a chicken quilt. Noooo. there was a whole barnyard full of them.

I am pretty sure I was the only one who had a rooster named Mr. Tweedle.

## Minutes of our Last Meeting by Susan Goehring, Secretary

### COLLEGE RETIREES ASSOCIATION (CRA) MINUTES OF MAY 05, 2016 MEETING, 11:30 A.M.

Held in the Bachelor's Building CBP 103

A Board Meeting was held at 11:00 A.M. prior to the General Meeting.

Discussion: Should the CRA newsletter be sent out before or after the CRA meetings?  
Conclusion is the newsletter will remain being emailed/sent out prior to meeting.

Discussion: Holiday party will be held at Atlantis Country Club on December 09, 2016.

Discussion: The next CRA meeting will be held on October 07, 2016, room to be determined.

Lunch and Socializing 11:30 AM - 12:05 PM

Peggy Adams-King, CRA President, welcomed all to the General Meeting.

- Introduction of each person (members and guest)
- A moment of silence was held for our lost members of the CRA.
- Treasurer's Report: Mary Taylor reported the check balance without today's deposit is 2077.57.
- CRA Minutes from May 05, 2016 as reported in the CRA Newsletter were approved
- Introduction of Board members.
- Peggy went over with the general membership what the Board members discussed prior to the CRA General Meeting.

President Ava Parker of Palm Beach State College introduced herself by video to the CRA members. She looks forward to meeting with the CRA members in Person soon.

#### PROGRAM

Peggy Adams-King introduced the guest speakers, Vice President of Administration and Business Services, Mr. Richard Becker and Vice President of Informational Services, Dr. Ginger Pedersen of Palm Beach State College.

Mr. Becker spoke on:

1. Security measures for the college that have or will be taking place, such as lock downs, black drapes to pull over glass windows and doors, and intercom system that will work both ways (to call out and to listen to what is going on in the room).
2. Camera initiative: to prove or disprove incidents
3. Vision: a 5th PBSC campus is being built off of Southern Blvd near Lion Country Safari area. It has 75 acres shaped as a rectangle. In 2015 the clearing of the Dr. Gallon campus had started and should have 13 classrooms by November 2016.

Dr. Maria Vallejo, Vice President of Growth Expansion will be over this campus along with the Belle Glade campus. Classes will hopefully be opened to students by 2017.

Right now it is a 50,000 sq foot building. They hope to leave the land as green as possible with a retention pond and another retention pond for C51 to drain under Southern Blvd on the northwest corner. Right now there is no money for a 2<sup>nd</sup> building.

Dr. Ginger Pedersen spoke on:

1. Organizational structure changes for Palm Beach State College
  2. Looking for new program to replace the PantherNet that is now in place.
  3. Performance Funding goal is to be Gold.
- Fall Meeting will be on Friday, October 7, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.



## New Members Joining CRA

Shirley Sullivan  
Erin McColskey  
Freddie Bennett  
Eileen Robinson  
Randy Gailey  
Barbara Braeunig  
Dr. Dennis Gallon  
John Kinnen  
James Horwitz  
Larry L. Leskovjan  
Marty Hartman  
Wendy Hartman  
Gail Tomei  
Ed Kinney  
Jacquelyn Keeley  
Julie Brandt  
Vickie Scheurer  
John Connolly  
Joseph Dente



### New Members:

PLEASE send us information on what you are doing, what trips you went on, how you like retirement—any news that we can include within this newsletter. Please send to [marie-reddy@comcast.net](mailto:marie-reddy@comcast.net)

## Palm Beach State College Campus News

# President unveils reorganization plan to improve service, student success

MARCH 24, 2016 | BY DR. GRACE TRUMAN

Organizational changes designed to help Palm Beach State College better focus on student success and quality customer service were announced by President Ava L. Parker today in her first State of the College address to faculty and staff.

In a broad leadership restructuring, Parker is expanding the role of provost, the chief administrator for each campus, to include College-wide responsibilities as vice presidents as well as a campus reassignment for three of them. She also announced a new vice president position to oversee information technology and the implementation of an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system. Most of the changes will take effect May 1.



“Shifting our organizational structure will help us achieve consistently high service to our students across the College,” said Parker. “If we focus on student success, quality completion, collaboration and innovation, we will be a College with a high-performing culture.”

Role changes for current College leaders include:

- Dr. Ginger Pedersen, currently the interim vice president for academic affairs, will assume the new position of vice president of information services and ERP implementation.
- Dr. Jean Wihbey, now the Palm Beach Gardens campus provost, will become the vice president for workforce development and provost of the Lake Worth campus.
- Dr. Maria Vallejo, Lake Worth campus provost, will become the vice president for growth and expansion and provost of the Belle Glade and Loxahatchee Groves campuses.
- Dr. Holly Bennett, currently Belle Glade campus provost, will serve as vice president for institutional effectiveness and provost of the Palm Beach Gardens campus.
- Dr. Bernadette Russell will become the vice president for e-Learning and will continue to serve as provost of the Boca Raton campus.

Existing vice president positions in academic affairs, student services and business services will remain with some shifting of responsibilities and oversight areas.

In introducing the changes, Parker pointed to common threads that have emerged in her interactions with College faculty and staff, students and the community since she assumed the presidency last July. Campus listening sessions, face-to-face meetings, student and employee surveys and other forums helped her identify priorities to be addressed. Other upcoming initiatives announced in the president’s address included plans for creating a method for students to identify their major early on; providing opportunities for faculty to be more involved in student advising; expanding advisors dedicated to programs; establishing a customer relations/service team; increasing leadership training, and creating more gathering spaces for students.

## College Retirees Association—Share This Information with Your Fellow Retirees!



As you enter the rewarding years of retirement, we encourage you to join the Palm Beach State College Retirees Association. The [CRA bylaws](#) contain the official reasons but many of us join simply because we have enjoyed working with each other and want to continue on with those relationships, in a relaxed setting.

Membership in CRA is open to persons who have retired from PBSC and the spouse or domestic partner of deceased members. [Complete the application form](#) and submit it along with your check for \$15.00 to join in the fun of the retirement years!

### **Benefits/Events:**

- Two free luncheons a year with interesting guest speakers
- Annual Holiday Luncheon held in early December at the beautiful Atlantis Country Club (\$25 per person)
- Other social activities based upon the interests of our members
- Newsletter with interesting articles about other retirees doing interesting things
- College email address and College Retiree ID Card (for a one-time fee of \$10)
- Theatre and bookstore discounts as offered to current employees

### **Purpose**

The predominant purpose of CRA is to provide opportunities for its members to engage in a variety of social activities, such as special programs, luncheons, maintaining up-to-date addresses, and reacting with understanding and compassion in times of serious illness, misfortune, or tragedy among members. Other purposes of CRA are to provide opportunities for its members:

- a. To continue their interest in and to interact with the College's administrators, faculty, staff, students, and alumni
- b. To volunteer their services to others in the community, especially in areas of their expertise and experience
- c. To obtain recognition and benefits from the College for members

## Announcement of October 7 CRA Meeting

### **PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

**Fall Luncheon Meeting  
Friday – October 7, 2016 - 11:30 AM  
President's Dining Room SCA 113**

**Special Guest Speaker:  
Mr. Joe Hamilton, LMT, CMT, NT  
Affiliate: Trust Bridge Health  
Topic: Five Steps to a Stress Free Life**

#### **MENU**

**Assorted Wraps:  
Ham, Turkey, Tuna**

**Fresh Fruit Salad**

**Mixed Sodas, Water**

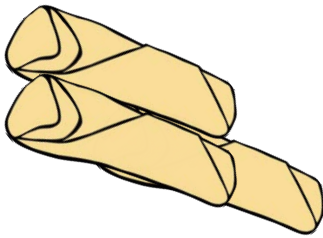
**Potato Chips**

**Assorted Cookies**

#### **RSVP**

**Nancy Buhl: [buhln@palmbeachstate.edu](mailto:buhln@palmbeachstate.edu)  
Phone: 561-793-3802**

**Members: No Charge  
Welcomed Guests: \$10.00 each**





## PHOTOS FROM MAY CRA MEETING



Mr. Richard Becker



Dr. Ginger Pederson



Ed Kinney



George Matsoukas and Carolyn Copeland



Ardease John and Mr. Becker



Dr. Helen Franke and Joal Solaas



Peggy Adams-King, Dr. Ginger Pederson,  
and Mrs. Honey Duncan





CRA President, Peggy Adams-King



Joy and Roger Rolinson



**PLEASE SEND NEWS ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING! ALSO, FEEL FREE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES TO BE PUBLISHED HERE. CONTACT MARIE REDDY AT MARIE-REDDY@COMCAST.NET.**

If you have a change in address or phone number (pr if you know the address of a former member who has moved), please contact:

**NANCY BUHL**

Home: (561) 793-3892

[buhln@palmbeachstate.edu](mailto:buhln@palmbeachstate.edu)

Don't forget e-mail addresses and cell phones!

If you know of a member who is ill or who has died or suffered some kind of setback, contact our

Good Will Ambassador

**JOAL SOLAAS**

at 561-790-0948 or e-mail

[joalandray@gmail.com](mailto:joalandray@gmail.com)

If you have an interesting idea for a speaker or program for one of our meetings, please contact:

**VIRGINIA BROOKS**

(561) 622-0264

[brooksv1944@gmail.com](mailto:brooksv1944@gmail.com)

[brooksv@palmbeachstate.edu](mailto:brooksv@palmbeachstate.edu)

Suggestions for a social event, please contact:

**JANETTE SANDERS**

2531 Henrietta Court Lake  
Worth, FL 33462 Home: (561)

964-0304

Cell: (561) 373-8137

## **REMINDER**

**April 30, 2016 to May 1, 2017 Membership dues are \$15.00  
Please make checks payable to Palm Beach State CRA and  
bring to meeting or mail to:**

**Mary Taylor  
1233 South E Street  
Lake Worth, FL 334600**